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09/30/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial Number: 09/683,502
Filing Date: January 9, 2002
Applicant(s): Aronstein et al.
Title: Self-Aligning Ultrasonic Displacement Sensor System, Apparatus And
Method For Detecting Surface Vibrations
Group Art Unit: 2837
Examiner: Jeffrey Donels

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Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449A (1 sheet) and copies of the three (3) non-patent references cited thereon. Following are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement. In particular, each of these three cited references were cited and first provided to applicant with an international search report carried out by the European Patent office for counterpart application PCT/US02/00573 filed January 9, 2002. This search report was mailed to applicant's undersigned counsel on July 25, 2002.

A copy of the citation of these references in the search report (2 sheets) is also provided herewith, to satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(3) for a concise explanation of each reference cited, although such concise explanation is optional for English language references, see MPEP 609 A(2) and A(3). It is to be noted that the claims as numbered in this search report and its corresponding PCT application correspond precisely to the claims as numbered in the subject U.S. application 09/683,502. To expedite prosecution, applicants wish below to offer some further observations on the Young et al. reference:

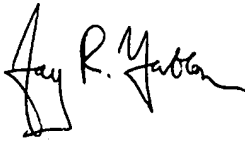
Applicants do not concur with the X and Y reference characterizations in the search report. In particular, there are significant differences between the comparator (210) and filters (212, 218) used in applicants' invention, and the phase meters and single chip microcomputer employed in the Young et al. reference. There are also significant differences in how the ultrasonic signal is processed by applicants as opposed to by Young et al. Finally, the characterizations in the search report to do not appear to have considered applicant's self-calibrating features.

Please note that an earlier filed information disclosure included the two U.S. references

cited in the search report.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Very truly yours,

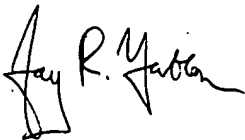


Jay R. Yablon
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CERTIFICATION OF FIRST CLASS MAILING MAIL UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

Date of Mailing: September 12, 2002 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the aforementioned date of mailing pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8 with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Name of Person Mailing Paper: Jay R. Yablon



(signature of person mailing paper)